

REMARKS

In the Office Action, claims 1-2, 5-7, 11-12, 17-18, 19-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gold, (U.S. Patent 6,828,919, hereinafter “Gold”). Claims 8, and 15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gold in view of Perkins et al., (U.S. Patent 6,642,682). Claims 3-4, 9-10, 13-14, and 16 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. By the present Response, claims 1, 4, 11, 14, 19, 23, and 25 are amended. Claims 3 and 13 are canceled. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 1, 2, 4-12 and 14-30 will be pending in the present patent application. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-2, 5-7, 11-12, 17-18, and 19-30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Gold. This rejection was made to all independent claims in view of prior art. However, the Examiner indicated that the subject matter of claim 3, for example, was allowable. Similar language to that found in claim 3 has been added to each of the independent claims 1, 11, 19, and 25 by this Response. Claim 3 and 13 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 4, 14, and 23 are amended to depend appropriately from claims 2, 11, and 22 respectively. All of the independent claims, and the claims depending therefrom are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 8 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Gold in view of Perkins.

As noted above, language similar to that found in claim 3 has been added to each of the independent claims by this Response. Claims 8 and 15 depend directly from the amended independent claims 1 and 11 respectively. Accordingly, claims 8 and 15 are

believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims are requested.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicants respectfully request allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 10/28/2005

PG
Patrick S. Yoder
Reg. No. 37,479
FLETCHER YODER
P.O. Box 692289
Houston, TX 77269-2289
(281) 970-4545